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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/539,010

06/15/2005

Hiroaki Yamada

Q88256

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04/12/2006

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EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/539,010	YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vladimir Imas	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/15/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (US 6,443,779).

Regarding claim 1, Suzuki, fig. 1-5, discloses a cassette relay block attachment structure comprising: a cassette relay block 15 having a lock portion 21 provided more inside than an outermost wall surface of a cassette relay block, the cassette relay block inserted into space surrounded by peripheral walls 22 on an attaching side 11, and fixed by the lock portion 23 and a locked portion located on the peripheral wall side of the attaching side.

Regarding claim 2, Suzuki discloses the lock portion and locked portion are housed in the projected area of a relay attached to the cassette relay block.

Regarding claim 3 and 10, Suzuki discloses the terminal housing parts 16 of said cassette relay block are arranged crosswise, and the lock portion is arranged in a range surrounded by crossing outer wall surfaces of the terminal housing parts.

Regarding claim 4, 11 and 12, Suzuki discloses the cassette relay block attachment structure characterized in that lock portion is a flexible lock arm.

Regarding claim 6, 16, 17, 18 and 19, Suzuki discloses the peripheral walls 22a on the attaching side are formed as a cassette frame.

Regarding claim 7, Suzuki discloses the cassette frame serves as one of the cassette relay block and other cassette electric parts mounting blocks.

Regarding claim 8, 20 Suzuki discloses the inner surfaces of the peripheral walls are housed in the projected area of the relay.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Polgar et al. (US 5,902,155).

Regarding claims 5, 13-15, Suzuki discloses all limitations except a rib provided on the opposite side to the lock portion side and for one of the cassette relay block and the peripheral walls and a guide groove for slide engagement with the rib provided for the other. Polgar et al., fig. 6-12, discloses a rib 52, 54 provided on the opposite side to the lock portion side and for one of the cassette relay block and the peripheral walls and a guide groove 36, 38. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Suzuki's cassette relay block with Polgar's et al. ribs and Suzuki's attaching side with Polgar's et al. grooves to provide insertion and fixing cassette relay block into attaching side (column 4, lines 37-48).

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5. Claims 9, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Okabe et al. (US 6,375,517).

Regarding claims 9, 21 and 22, Suzuki discloses all limitations except the cassette frames having lock members, respectively are coupled to each other by the lock members. Okabe et al., fig. 1-6 discloses the cassette frames 24, 27 having lock members 12, 13, respectively are coupled to each other by the lock members. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Suzuki's cassette frames with Okabe's et al. lock members to provide the cassette frames are coupled to a connection box body having locked members to constitute an electric connection box.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

✓
Examiner
Vladimir Imas
03/31/2006


TULSIDAS C. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER